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The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, April 2. 1695

Quest. 1. A Captain, *in time of War, plundered a Village, and from an Inhabitant therein he took some thousands of pounds, which rained him and his Family; a Peace was concluded, and the* Captain *returns to his* Countrey, *and lives great, &c. Some time after, the poor Inhabitant came, and accidentally begged at his Door. Whether the* Captain *ought not in conscience to maintain the poor Inhabitant during his life, when he knew him to be the same person he so plundered? Pray, Gentlemen, your speedy answer.*

Answ. Indeed, we think in charity (if not Justice) he ought; and if he's a man of Honour he'll ne'r dispute it.

Quest. 2. *How is it that several Animals, as* Bears, Dormice, Swallows, *&c. sleep all the Winter, without receiving any supplies of food, and yet have all the solid parts of their Body as large and fresh when they wake again in the Spring, as when they first betook themselves to their Dens?*

Answ. May, some Natural Historians tell us, That they grow Fat in this time, notwithstanding their Abstinence from Food; the Reason of which may doubtless be assigned to this, That the Flame in their heart, during that time, being but gently moved, and burning scarcely consumes very little of their Spirits and blood. For the matter or substance consumed, is conceived to be the fluid parts of the body, especially the blood and spirits; which having in them something of the Nature of Oyl or Sulphur, are the principal Fuel of the Vital Flame, and not the substance of the solid parts, as is commonly supposed. And therefore their Spirits being but little wasted, their bodies remain in their former good disposition.

Quest. 3. *I have lately met with a man who at several times has had Milk in his Breasts, which I have been an eye-witness of; and have accordingly related it to several of my acquaintance here, who, because the thing is not common, look upon me as very ridiculous and false to assert it; and the poor Gentleman, who lives in the Country, is very much dissatisfied about it, lest it should be occasion'd by some unperceived distemper, altho he has hitherto had his health well, and says nothing cou'd satisfy him so much as instances of the same nature, of which if you know any, and will be pleas'd to give them, you will at once both redeem my credit, and secure his quiet.*

Answ. We have had several relations of matters of this nature, and the effect no ways prejudicial to the person. *Schenchius* tells us he knew a man who from his youth to the fiftieth year of his age had milk in a great quantity flowing from his Nipples every day; *Wallæus* says the same of a *Dutchman*; likewise *Benedictus*, *Cardan*, *Aquapendens* and several other credible Authors affirm as much. And some *Historians* also tell us, that there are whole Nations in *America* wherein the men have commonly a great quantity of milk, and often suckle their Children.

Quest. 4. *What may we properly understand by Metal, what are the properties of it, has there not been several ways of finding it; which do you think the best to discover it, and the easiest way to get at it when found?*

Answ. Metal is conceived to be a perfectly mixt body, generated in the veins of the Earth, out of *Sulphur* and quicksilver, by virtue of the Heavens and Elements. Its properties are fusible and ductile, from the first of which it may be cast, and from the last beaten into any form, the more quicksilver any metal has in its composition the more fusible it is said to be. From whence it is supposed that Tin has most of it, because it melts soonest, which is probable enough by the agreement and subtil combination of tin and mercury, in the art of making looking-glasses.

The finding of metals has always been with difficulty, labour, and hazard. And in order to the discovering of mines several methods have been pursued, some have observed dreams, as if God Almighty that way reveal'd these treasures to 'em; others have depended much upon the *Rosi-crusian Rod*, cut under certain Constellations and Conjunctions; some have regarded the colour of sheeps teeth; others the Sands of Rivers. But it appears most reasonable to observe the peculiar plants, and sorts of Stone and Earth, near the place where metals have been already found, and of them and the mineral stones or Oar to keep a quantity of each as samples. But when we have discover'd where it is, it is often very difficult to come at it; sometimes by the hardness of rocks, (which are open'd by fire, water, or vinegar) as *Hanibal* made his way through the *Alps*; Sometimes by their great depth in the Earth, and sometimes occasion'd by springs of water which arise in the bottom of the works; and this must be drawn out by pumps, (for which purpose mill-pumps are best) or else let out by Adits, which are new ways cut out from the bottom of an adjoyning valley, into the Hill where the mine lies. The labour is also very great, through digging so deep, drawing out so much Rubbish, making many shafts only for Air to pierce those *Adits*, the work being commonly so wet and dirty that a man can scarcely stand to it two or three hours together. And as for the danger, both lives and estates are Hazarded by it, the latter through the vastness of expence and uncertainty of profit; some having laid out to the value of eight or ten thousand pounds, in an *Adit* to a tin work, which after all has proved worth nothing; and workmen have oft lost their lives by damps, or the falling in of the Earth, notwithstanding all the Caution and expence used to prevent it.

Quest. 5. *I am desired by a very sober, honest young* Countrey Gentleman, *though a* Dissenter, *to propose this Question to you, in this Order as follows: His Father is a* Church *of* England-man, *but so covetous, that though he hath* 400 l. per annum, *will not allow his* Son *above* 40 l. per annum *to live upon, suppos'd because he dissents: whereupon the* Son *learns Merchandising, though you may judge at first it could be but little, with so small a stock, by reason of his Merchandise he is forc'd to come to* London *to dispatch some business could not be done without his presence. The next day after he came to Town, meets a Lady he liked so well, that he must needs dodge her till he found where she lived, as he thought; but was deceived. In great concern he was how to find out who she was: but the next* Sunday *he sees her at the Meeting-house he us'd to go to: The second sight so enflam'd him that nothing could be more; but resolv'd not to loose so good opportunity, dodges her again and finds out the place of her abode: but finds her and her parents Church of* Englands *people; he cannot be quiet till he breaks his mind to the Lady. But she hapning to be a* 3 *or* 4000 l. *Lady, is carefully watcht, and not to be spoke withal but before her parents; much time being spent*

ſpent to no purpoſe, in finding occaſions of ſpeaking to her, at laſt he reſolves to go to the houſe, where he told his mind to the parents: the Lady not being to be ſeen; they tell him ſhe is engag'd already to another; he believes not, writes to her. She, by the father, anſwers, ſhe is ſo; that will not do; he is ſo deep in love, he cannot overcome it. He leaves the meetings, goes to Church, and twice a week ſees the Lady. But ſhe to croſs him, (even in the Church) turns her ſelf always ſo as he can have but one ſight all the while he is at Church, which not ſufficing he waits at the door, and overtakes her in the ſtreet, &c. And is reſolv'd never to court any other Lady as long as this is unmarry'd; for he ſaith he cannot fancy any beſides. Richer matches have been propos'd to him, but in vain, he can think on no other. And this he cannot court, becauſe already engag'd. I adviſ'd him not to go to that Church where ſhe uſes to go, and ſo by degrees to wean himſelf from her: but he ſaith the very thoughts of that is death to him, tho he fears that every time he ſees her he breaks the 2 firſt Commandments, if not the ſeventh, nay in ſome manner the tenth. Now ſeeing there is no hopes of ever gaining her parents leave; and that the very ſight of him ſo diſpleaſes and offends the Lady, that ſhe purpoſely avoids him as often as ſhe can (nay ſometimes when ſhe cannot prevent the ſeeing or being ſeen by him, ſhe will make as if ſhe were not well, and lay her head againſt the Pew,) would it not be wiſdom in the Gentleman to leave off going to that Church? He alſo deſires your opinion whether it may be lawful or ſinful in him to court her if he can find a convenient opportunity? And to endeavour to perſwade her to break promiſe with another to marry him? And ſhould ſhe conſent, and her parents too, Whether it would be lawful for him to marry her during the other mans life; unleſs he ſhould utterly refuſe? Which if he ſhould do, If he may Court her? And can gain her and her parents conſent to marry her? The Gentleman determines to follow your directions and advice in the Caſe; and is reſolv'd to go no more to that Church, if you adviſe him ſo.

Anſw. We wou'd adviſe our tender conſcienced querift to examine why the commands of a father are not ſtrong enough to prevail with him to go to Church, and yet the ſight of a fair miſtreſs draws him thither continually, which if he juſtly conſiders he'll find 'tis more humour than reaſon that makes a diſſenter of him. He may take this by the by only for his edification. Then as for his love affair, if there were none of theſe mighty obſtacles, the match wou'd be very improper for him, or at leaſt for the Lady, they being of contrary perſwaſions, which generally occaſions a great deal of difference between perſons after marriage, few husbands being either good humour'd or reaſonable enough to bear any contradiction in their wives, tho of meer opinion. But as there is a preengagement, both Honour and Religion oblige him to deſiſt; And after ſuch cold treatment, if he has a ſpark of reaſon 'twill contribute very much to his cure. As for all his buts, and ifs, that he ſhou'd win the Lady, gain her father, be permitted by her other lover, whether he may lawfully marry her, (tho there appears nothing probable from whence he can conclude any ſuch thing) yet if all this ſhou'd happen without his having any hand in the matter, he may lawfully take her for better for worſe; Altho as matters ſtand he muſt not ſo much as lift up a little finger to diſturb the happy lovers; and therefore will do moſt prudently to ſhun the ſight of her as much as poſſible.

Advertiſement.

The Effigies of her Late Majeſty of Bleſſed memory; is curiouſly done to the life, in Wax; and Dreſt in *Coronation Robes*; at Mr. *Goldſmiths* in *Green Court* in the *Old Jury*, *London*.

The Effigies of her late moſt Gracious Majeſty Queen *Mary*, of ever bleſſed memory, with her Titles, being the repreſentation of her *Funeral Medal*. On the reverſe ſhe is made aſcending to Heaven, being receiv'd by Angels, and Crown'd with a Diadem of Stars; leaving her Regalia upon a Pedeſtal of Stone, ſignifying the firm eſtabliſhment of the Government, with *Britannia* ſitting by, lamenting her Loſs. Underneath is a ſhort *Elegy*, and a *Chronology* of the moſt Remarkable Paſſages, from her Birth to her interment, Curiouſly Engraven to the Life, by *S. Gribelin*, and may be had at moſt Printſhops in *London* and *Weſtminſter*.

There is this day Publiſhed,

Lachrymæ Sacerdotis. A Pindarick Poem occaſion'd by the Death of that moſt excellent Princeſs, our late *Gracious Sovereign Lady*, *Mary* the Second, of Glorious Memory. By *Henry Park*, Curate of *Wentworth* in *Yorkſhire*. Printed for *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Jewen-ſtreet*, and are alſo to be Sold by *Edm. Richardſon*, in the upper Court in *Scalding-Alley*, near the *Poultry-Church*,

At the *Kings-Arms*, in the *Minories*, being the late Dwelling houſe of Mr. *George Fiſher*, Gunſmith, Deceaſed, is to be ſold all ſorts of Fine and Ordinary Arms, *viz.* *Birding-Guns*, *Carbines*, *Piſtols*, *Muſquets*, *Muſquettoons*, *Muſquettoon-Piſtols*, at very reaſonable rates, and likewiſe the houſe to be let, being very Convenient for any ſhop-keeper. Inquire at the place aforeſaid.

Theſe are to give Notice, that Dr. *Clarke*, who has been moſt famous for curing all diſeaſes of the Eyes, and was Phyſician and the only ſworn Oculiſt, to King *Charles* the ſecond, and to the late King before whom he reſtored in an inſtant the Lady *Bellaſis* to perfect ſight who was long blind; and brought to ſight the 2 Sons of one Mr. *Peter Walter* a Schoolmaſter, living near *Mountague-Houſe* in great *Ruſſel-ſtreet*, who were born blind with Cataracts, and has reſtored many blind of the *Gutta Serena*, or black Cataracts, a diſeaſe accounted incurable by others, and has an infallible ſecret for the King's Evil, and diſſolving Cataracts, in the beginning without Couching, and Clearing the ſight of Dimneſs, with all thoſe ſeeming miſts, Clouds and falſe appearances of things flying before the ſight, ſigns of a growing blindneſs if not in time prevented. And where as he hath had lately a call out of this Nation, by ſome eminent perſons of Quality who were blind, who being reſtored to ſight by his skill, he is now returned home, and may be adviſed withal as formerly (not only in the *Opticks*, but as a Legal Phyſician in all diſeaſes incident to humane Bodies) at his houſe in *Hatton-Garden*; a Golden Eagle being over the Door.

*** *IN Grays-Inn-lane* in *Plow-yard*, the third door, lives Dr. *Thomas Kirleus*, a Collegiate Phyſician, and Sworn Phyſician in Ordinary to King *Charles* the Second, until his death; who with a Drink and Pill (hindring no Buſineſs) undertakes to cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Noſe, Face, or other parts; Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Leproſies, and Venereal Diſeaſe, expecting nothing until the Cure be finiſhed: Of the laſt he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and ſo deſtroys many. The Drink is 3 *s.* the Quart, the Pill 1 *s.* a box, with Directions; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanſe the body of all Impurities, which are the cauſes of Dropſies, Gouts, Scurvies, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. Take heed whom you truſt in Phyſick, for it's become a *common Cheat* to profeſs it. He gives his opinion to all that write or come, for nothing.

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